



Neighborhood Planning Assembly Draft Minutes

NPA:
(choose one)

Wards 1 & 8	Wards 2 & 3	Wards 4 & 7	Ward 5	Ward 6
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Date of Assembly: 01 / 22 / 2020 Start Time: (Commence): 7:00 PM

Location: The Robert Miller Community Center Finish Time: (Adjourn): 9:00 PM

Note taker: Sydney Hinckley

Please forward these official minutes to: _____

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Jeff Comstock

Jeff Clark

David Driscoll

Linda Deliduka

Erik Monsen

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Agenda Items and Actions:

Please Remember to Enter Adjournment Time!

7:00-7:10 - Ground Rules, Introductions and Announcements

- Annie Lawson and Ashley Smith with Community Voices for Immigrant Rights announce a major campaign and resolution addressing immigration authorities and the police.
- Community member discusses Parks and Recreation and Leddy Park and sends a sign up around.
- Ericka Redic announces that she will be running for Ward City Councilor and will be meeting at Simple Roots on Saturdays.
- Community members are looking for one more person to help with community dinner to help coordinate dropping off compost. Dinner is before the NPA meeting every time except the summer. Also running a book club meeting at Simple Roots.

7:10-7:50 Non-citizen voting in local elections

- Tom Fleury as Ward Clerk with Ward 7 explains non-citizen voting. Discusses checklists and having separate ballot for city issues in November 2016. Logistically it isn't that different from what we've done in the past, not much of a challenge. Dignity and privacy of voters is very important in their own languages. Community member asks questions about workshops for New American Voters and the definition of a Non-Citizen.
- Ted Albers as US Citizenship and Immigration Service Office in South Burlington explains his role, as well as the history of USCIS. Handout, US Lawful Permanent Residents, and refers to it as an overview of how someone could become a lawful permanent resident and then, citizenship. Two routes of becoming a lawful permanent resident, sponsoring someone or through employment-based visas. Goes into detail about the history and number of Vermont's lawful permanent residents. Community members ask questions about the relationship of the military and citizenship, cost of becoming a lawful permanent resident, timeline of pathways to becoming a lawful permanent resident, citizenship test, and if you have more specific questions feel free to contact our office at USCIS.

7:50- 8:10 Changes in election process

- Franklin Paulino, City Councilor, discusses resolution to simplify voting. Proposed change would give voters an extra 25 days to vote, which would make voting easier and cheaper for taxpayers. Right now, the state ballots must be printed and available 45 days before the election, but local is only 20 days before. This resolution would make one ballot and one absentee ballot. Discuss school board, budget, timeframe, and questions about this with Non-citizen voting. Can put information at Front Porch Forum, and feel free to contact Franklin via email.

8:10-8:30 - Tax increase for emergency equipment

- Franklin Paulino continues to discuss next ballot item asking for a tax increase. He describes impact of this item for funding access for ambulances, firefighters, and training for medics. He also states that this would be the biggest edition to the Firefighter's budget in 20 years. Community members ask questions about the school bond, cutting spending, not being able to afford taxes, and Burlington Telecom money.
- Ali Dieng makes comments concerning the budget, cutting taxes, ambulance, firefighters, Burlington Telecom, Burlington City Arts, and the ballot item.
- Community member asks questions about workload, calls, responses, and data about these issues before the polls.
- Over the 10 years, 30% increase in calls for firefighters, 500 calls for mutual aid, and it takes longer to report due to technological advances.
- Community member asks to look at the City Report. What happens to medical billing for ambulance and where the money goes back to? Another asks question about finding a better, efficient way to collaborate with the Emergency Room. Community member talks about parking fees and using money from those to address this issue, and another asks about existing training for Fire fighters.
- Chief Locke will be at the Bagel Place this Saturday if you'd like to meet and talk about this with him.

8:30-9:00 - Elected Officials (School, City, State)

- Martine Gulick with the Burlington School Board discusses the School Budget and Superintendent Search. She discusses the search committee for the next Superintendent and is looking forward to a transparent and inclusive process and will have been holding community forums to get input.
- Kendra talks about the school board budget and talks about asking stakeholders what their needs there are for this year. This is a difficult budget year due to health insurance, baseline asks for budget, and the surplus.
- Community members ask questions on percentage of overall budget on non-teaching expenditures. 82% is for direct instructional roles and sports budget is substantially lower to many schools in Chittenden County. Community member asks questions about budget, and charge of accounts. Kendra answers that the charge of accounts to find more exact numbers and line items.
- Kendra discusses cost per pupil and new information that has been released by the state. Martine mentions that the Burlington School District is a big employer and go to the district website about the budget. There are more details on the website.
- Jean O Sullivan – Representative for Chittenden 6-2. She gave an overview about what the committees have been doing. She talks about conversations they have had about storage units and rules and regulations concerning them. O Sullivan mentions non-complete clauses, and how they can be applied to minimum wage workers; it can destroy or hamper careers. She discusses travel and tourism: 2-3% of our total income. Considering giving more money to regional advertisement but need to develop a way of measuring if the money has been well

spent. Travel and tourism provide for entry level jobs and can lead to higher paying jobs. She also discussed the correction facilities.

- Carol Ode – Representative for Chittenden 6-1. She talks about the introduction of Global Warming Act and setting greenhouse emission goals to ensure they are up to date. They will be made statutory obligations and state agencies will be held accountable to follow and enforce those. She discussed paid family leave as a way of attracting younger people and employees; this would help employees and small businesses. Mentions Act 250, Vermont Natural Resources Committee, and how FY21 was passed unanimously.
- Bob Hooper – Representative for Chittenden 6-1. Discusses noncitizen committee voting and across the state, all municipalities are asking the same questions. Questions concerning how to identify non-citizen are coming up. He has heard testimony on a constitutional amendment, cows, library funding, recreating commission missions, law enforcement using drones, change compensation for legislation, eliminating high bailiff, Perkins bill, Vermont Youth Council, and tax bill.
- Ali Dieng – City Councilor for Ward 7 began by thanking community and Franklin for sharing information about the ballot. He discussed the new chief of police and how she was unanimously voted by city of council. Important things in the city: issue of Burlington Telecom is over and we will get our \$6 million and are thinking of ways to invest. Mentioned Mohammed Jafar and his work addressing the lack of voice for New Americans participating in voting. There are two New American Voting Events in the next few weeks, one in Burlington and one in Winooski.
- Kurt Wright – City Councilor for Ward 4 thanks everyone for being there. Great news in Burlington, there is officially a one stop shop permitting system. Thanks Jon Murad and Jen for serving with Police Department. He discussed passing a resolution for waiting students and mentioned the issue of releasing Justin Reynold multiple times.
- Martine and Kendra mention meeting February 8th, from 9:00 – 10:30 AM at the bagel shop at the North Avenue Shopping Center. Feel free to ask questions about the school board budget. Look at the website.